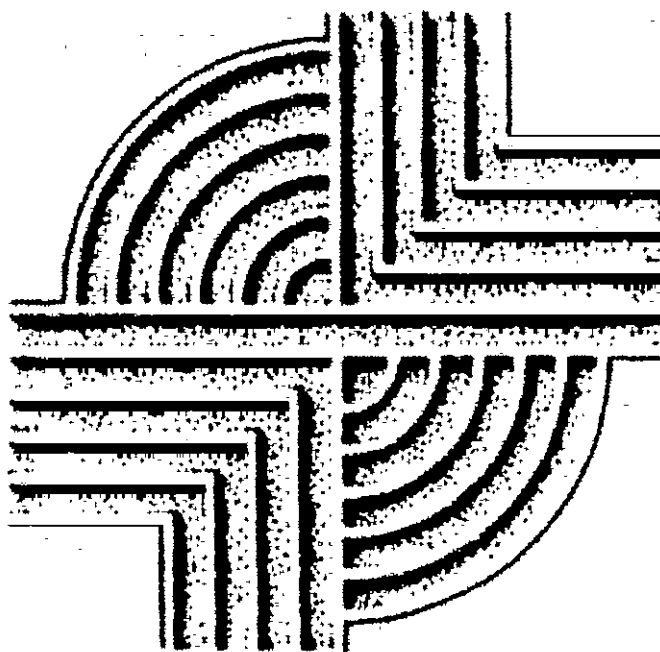


ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
OF THE PROPOSED COLLETON COUNTY  
INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD  
COLLETON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA



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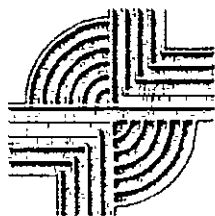
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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED COLLETON COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD, COLLETON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

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## ABSTRACT

This study reports on an intensive archaeological survey of a 4,400-foot long access road corridor for the proposed Colleton County Industrial Park expansion. The survey was situated about 2 miles east of the City of Walterboro in central Colleton County, just east of Ireland Creek. The corridor runs from Industrial Road (S-458) southwesterly for about 3,300 feet to a dirt access road along a powerline easement, where it turns east, extending an additional 1,100 feet. The corridor was 66 feet in width and had been cleared for most of this length. Only the road corridor was included in the survey.

The project corridor includes several areas of low, poorly drained soils where drainages flow from the east into the Ireland Creek floodplain. Adjacent to these drainages the topography was steeply sloping. Also included, and comprising the bulk of the survey corridor, is an upland area overlooking the creek. At the time of the survey the corridor was marked, with all but the wetland areas completely cleared by bulldozer.

The archaeological survey consisted of shovel testing in the center of the corridor at 100-foot intervals. Areas of steep slope (over 10%) or standing water were not shovel tested. Based on previous experience in similar areas, shovel testing penetrated the Ap horizon and extended at least an additional 1.0 to 1.5 feet in the underlying subsurface soils of yellowish brown sand. All fill was screened through ¼-inch mesh and the shovel tests were backfilled at the completion of the study.

Consultation with the S.C. Department of Archives and History reveals no National Register properties in the immediate area. The S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology reveals only one archaeological site, 38CN94, in the project area.

Our study revealed the location of two archaeological sites in the proposed corridor. Site

38CN215 is situated in the central corridor and represents a very thin scatter of prehistoric pottery. Site 38CH216 is situated at the southern end of the project and appears to represent a secondary deposit of historic materials. Neither site appears to possess the data sets capable of addressing substantive research questions and are recommended not eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

With the concurrence of the State Historic Preservation Office no additional management activities are recommended for the road corridor. However, it is possible that archaeological remains may be encountered in the corridor during construction. Construction crews should be advised to report any discoveries of concentrations of artifacts (such as bottles, ceramics, or projectile points) or brick rubble to the project engineer, who should in turn report the material to the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office or to Chicora Foundation. No construction should take place in the vicinity of these late discoveries until they have been examined by an archaeologist.

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I want to thank Mr. Tom Covington and Ms. Autumn Perkins of our staff who were responsible for assembling the background information for this project. I appreciate their dedication and thoroughness.

In addition, I appreciate the assistance and cooperation of the staffs of the S.C. Department of Archives and Historic, particularly Dr. Tracy Power, and the S. C. Institute of Archaeology and

Anthropology, particularly Mr. Keith Derting. Both went out of their way to make our job easier and the final product more complete and useful.

Finally, I want to thank B.P. Barber and Associates for their concern regarding the cultural resources of South Carolina, as well as their support of Chicora Foundation.

# INTRODUCTION

## Project Background

This work was conducted for Mr. Michael Lambrecht and Ms. Glenda Williamson, B.P. Barber and Associates, by Dr. Michael Trinkley, with assistance from Ms. Rachel Campo, of Chicora Foundation. The project involves the construction of an access road to an extension of the Colleton County Industrial Park. The proposed road has been largely cleared and this project includes only that road, not the associated industrial park expansion.

This project is situated in central Colleton County, running south off Industrial Road (S-458) and paralleling Ireland Creek for about 3,300 feet before turning to the east and allowing an existing dirt road for an additional 1,100 feet (Figures 1 and 2). While running parallel to Ireland Creek, the corridor crosses a wetland at the beginning of the project, just south of Industrial Road. It then continues along the edge of the side slope, just west of an area which has been reclaimed from a county landfill, before entering a second steeply sloping drainage. Rising up out of the drainage on the south side, the corridor crosses a relatively high sandy ridge overlooking Ireland Creek (Figure 3). It turns to the south where it intersects a dirt access road parallel to a powerline easement and immediately north of a gas pipeline corridor. The proposed road continues eastward toward a vocational rehabilitation school fronting on Recold Road.

This study is the result of a review of a proposed Army Corps Nationwide Permit (SAC-14-99-1085-A) by the S.C. Department of Archives and History, at which time it was noted, "the area proposed for development [of the industrial park expansion] has never been the subject of an archaeological survey" and the agency "recommend[s] a cultural resource survey" (letter from Ms. Nancy Brock, SC Department of Archives and History to Mr. Chris Dowling, Charleston

District Corps of Engineers, dated July 26, 1999). In response, the Corps recommended a "survey of the project area. In this case the project area will be limited to the proposed wetland crossing and the upland areas in the immediate vicinity of the crossing" (Mr. Chris Dowling, Charleston District Corps of Engineers to Ms. Glenda Williamson, B.P. Barber & Associates, dated August 16, 1999).

B.P. Barber & Associates requested a survey of the access road, which was indicated to be "66-feet wide and approximately 4,430 linear feet" (Ms. Glenda Williamson, B.P. Barber & Associates to Dr. Michael Trinkley, Chicora Foundation, dated August 23, 1999). A proposal for the corridor survey was submitted August 26, 1999 and approved November 15, 1999.

We requested information from the S.C. Department of Archives and History concerning any NRHP buildings, districts, structures, sites, or objects in the study area, as well as the results of any structures surveys which may have been completed in the study area on November 17, 1999. To date we have not had a response, although Ms. Brock's letter of July 26, 1999 would likely have made mention of any significant cultural resources in the project area. In addition, we have examined the statewide site files of the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology as part of the background assessment.

The field investigations were conducted by Dr. Michael Trinkley and Ms. Rachel Campo on November 18. A total of 15 person hours were spent on-site conducting the survey. The archaeological collections were processed at the Chicora Foundation laboratories on November 22 and site forms for the two identified archaeological sites were completed on November 22 and submitted to the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology for site numbers that same day. Site numbers were assigned on November 23.





Figure 1. Project vicinity in Colleton County, South Carolina (basemap is USGS South Carolina 1:500,000).

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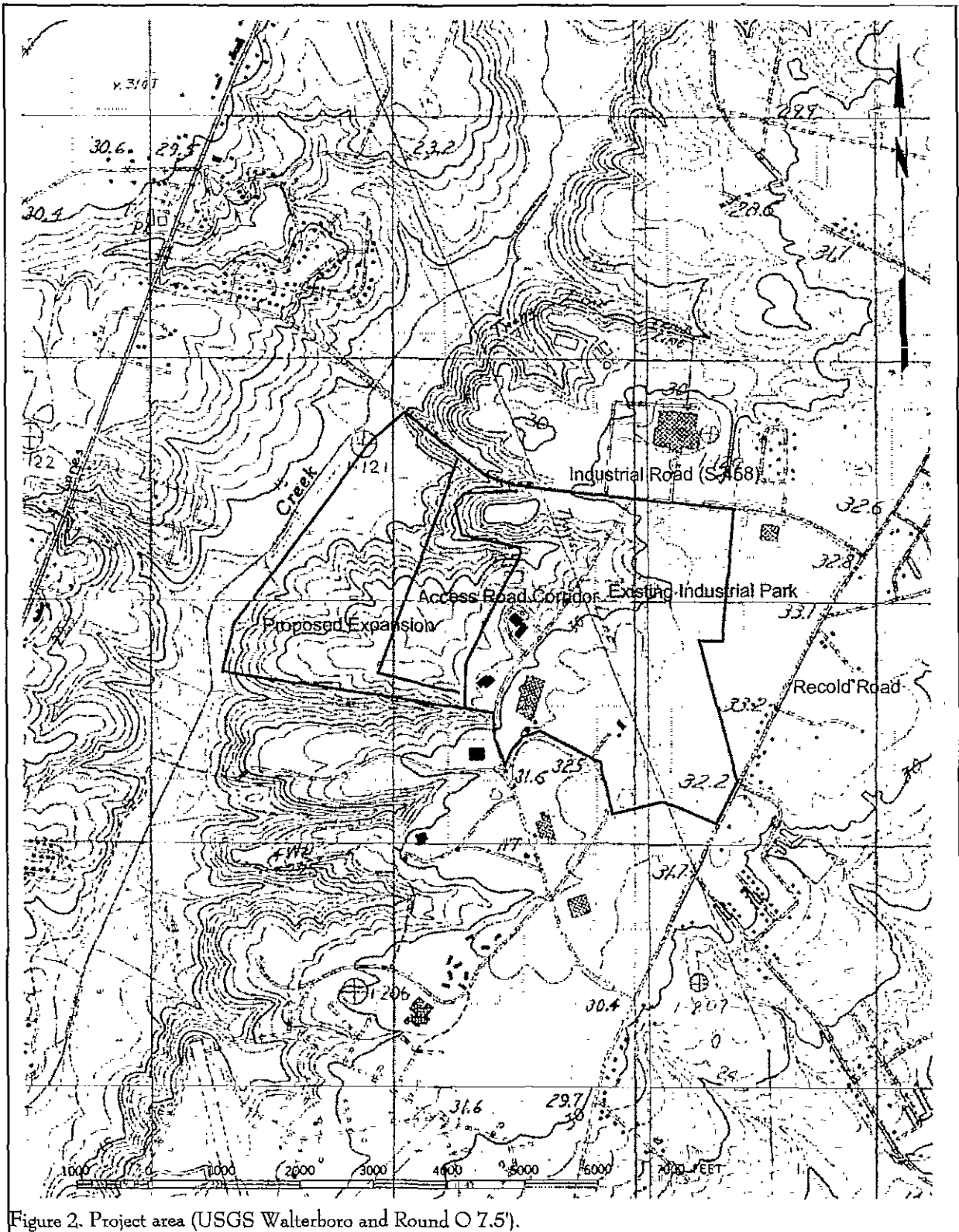


Figure 2. Project area (USGS Walterboro and Round O 7.5').



Figure 3. High sandy ridge in the central portion of the corridor survey.

### Natural Environment

Colleton County is situated in the lower Atlantic Coastal Plain of South Carolina. Containing about 1,048 square miles (excluding recently annexed Edisto Beach), it is bordered by Charleston, Dorchester, Orangeburg, Bamberg, Allendale, and Hampton counties to the north, east, and west. It is bounded on the south and east by approximately 4 miles of irregular Atlantic Ocean shoreline, as well as a number of barrier and marsh islands.

The topography of the country is characterized by subtle undulation characteristic of beach ridge plains. The elevations range from sea level to approximately 125 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). In the vicinity of the study area the elevations range from about 68 feet AMSL in the bottomland drainages to 80 feet AMSL on the upland ridge at the southern edge of the survey area.

Colleton is drained by three significant river systems: the Edisto (historically known as Pon Pon River), the Ashepoo, and the Combahee-Salkahatchie. All three rivers have significant freshwater discharge

although the Ashepoo is dominated by salt water as far upriver as Lavington Plantation (about 19 miles inland) and the point of maximum brackish water penetration is in the vicinity of the Ashepoo community. The Combahee River forms the southwestern boundary of the county while the Edisto forms part of the northern boundary. The Ashepoo River bisects Colleton County, flowing just west of the City of Walterboro. It is into the Ashepoo that Ireland Creek flows after

draining much of the area east and northeast of Walterboro.

In addition to these major drainages there are a number of broad, low-gradient interior drainages that are present either as extensions of tidal streams or flooded bays and swales. The proposed road corridor crosses two of these swales.

As previously mentioned, Colleton County is made up of one broad physiographic area, often called the lower Atlantic Coastal Plain or the Atlantic Coast Flatwoods. The surface soils are almost entirely sedimentary and were transported into the area from elsewhere. The geology of Colleton County is characteristic of the region; the formations covering the surface date from the Pleistocene and include sands, clays, gravels, and phosphates.

Much of the county is covered with broad areas of nearly level to gently sloping loamy to clayey soils. On the flood plains these soils are usually subjected to at least occasional, and often frequent, flooding. Many exhibit wet season high water tables — often within a foot of the surface. Major soil series include Bladen, Argent, Wahee, Santee, and Cape Fear. Just southeast

## INTRODUCTION

of Walterboro the soils become a little lighter, and are characterized by loamy profiles. Typical soil series include Goldsboro, Lynchburg, Rains, and Coosaw. Although many of these soils have water tables 2 or more feet below the surface, the Rains and Coosaw soils are still likely to be wet during much of the year. At Walterboro there is a band of primarily sandy soils crossing the county from southwest to northeast. Included are such series as Blanton, Chipley, and Lakeland — all exhibiting good to excessive drainage (Stuck 1982).

Only two soil series are reported in the project area. Alpin fine sands are found in the uplands and Pinckney loamy sands are identified in the lowlands and wetland areas (Stuck 1982:Map 33). The Alpin series is described as excessively drained sands formed in the uplands from deposits of sandy sediments. Soils may be gently sloping. The Ap horizon consists of grayish brown (10YR5/2) fine sand about 0.5 foot in depth over an A21 horizon of light yellowish brown (10YR7/4) sand to a depth of 2.3 feet. The Pinckney soils are very poorly drained and are formed in thick deposits of sandy sediments. These soils are found in drainages and depressions. The A horizon, typically about a foot in depth, consists of black (10YR2/1) loamy sand. Below is an A12 horizon to nearly 3 feet of very dark gray (10YR3/1) loamy sand.

The proposed road corridor crosses about 1200 feet of the poorly drained lowland soils. The remainder of the corridor is on the better drained upland soils.

Colleton County has a subtropical climate, characterized by warm summers, mild winters, and adequate precipitation fairly evenly spread throughout the year. Except in the summer, when maritime tropical air controls the climate of the area, the daily weather patterns are controlled by west to east moving pressure systems and associated fronts.

Yearly precipitation averages 52 inches, but ranges from 41 to 62 inches. The growing season, from April to September, receives an average of 32 inches or about 60% of the yearly total. The average length of the freeze-free growing season is approximately 200 days, although frosts can occur as early as October 19 and as late as April 20 (Stuck 1982:2, Table 2).

Mills remarked in 1826 that Carolina was similar to European climates, lying at a similar latitude. He noted that:

in comparing the climate of South Carolina, with similar climates in Europe, we find it lying under the same atmospheric influences with Aix, Rochelle, Montpelier, Lyons, Bordeaux, and other parts of France; with Milan, Turin, Padua, Mantua, and other parts of Italy (Mills 1972 [1826]:133).

The coastal region is a moderately high risk zone for tropical storms, with 169 hurricanes being documented from 1686 to 1972 (0.59 per year) (Mathews et al. 1980:56). One of the most devastating in the eighteenth century was the hurricane of September 15, 1752. One report listed 92 people drowned, although the death toll, especially among the African American slaves was likely much higher. The storm also had considerable long-term effects and Calhoun notes that:

the destruction of trees was severe; one plantation owner's loss was assessed at \$50,000 and many of those trees which survived were "heart-shaken," and unfit for use. Crops were even more damaged as the storm followed a severe drought. It was necessary to enact laws to regulate the exportation and sale of corn, "Peafe," and small rice, so that "the poor may be able to purchase Provisions at a moderate Price" (Calhoun 1983:9).

Speaking of the coastal plain Braun observed that:

the vegetation of this region is in part warm temperate-subtropical, in part distinctively coastal plain, and in part temperate deciduous. It is made up of widely different forest



Figure 4. View of upland vegetation along the existing dirt road adjacent to the powerline at the south edge of the project, view to the east.

region reveals tremendous diversity. Being within the Atlantic Coast Flatwoods, the predominant extant vegetation is pine, with small numbers of saw palmetto and oak. In the immediate project area the uplands are dominated by xeric species, such as pine (Figure 4), while the lowlands exhibit much more mesic hardwood species, both as upper and lower story species (Figure 5) (see Barry 1980).

communities - coniferous, mixed coniferous and hardwood, deciduous hardwood, and mixed deciduous and broad-leaved evergreen hardwood - interrupted here and there by swamps, bogs, and prairies. The large number of unlike communities is related to the diverse environmental conditions of the region (Braun 1974:282)

In the immediate project area the upland corridor had been cleared of vegetation by bulldozer, probably much earlier in the year (all of the vegetation was very dry). This clearing has resulted in



Figure 5. View of the lowland vegetation at the beginning of the project, just south of Industrial Road (S-458), view to the south.

Indeed, an examination of the

rutting in some areas and in others there are mounds of vegetation and soil resulting from grubbing operations. The lowland areas has survey lines out through, but were otherwise not cleared. There was, however, evidence of previous logging, with the associated rutting and erosion caused by skid trails and other activities.

### Prehistoric and Historic Synthesis

#### The Prehistoric

The Paleo-Indian period, lasting from 12,000 to 8,000 B.C., is evidenced by basally thinned, side-notched projectile points; fluted, lanceolate projectile points, side scrapers, end scrapers; and drills (Coe 1964; Michie 1977; Williams 1968). The Paleo-Indian occupation, while widespread, does not appear to have been intensive. Artifacts are most frequently found along major river drainages, which Michie interprets to support the concept of an economy "oriented towards the exploitation of now extinct mega-fauna" (Michie 1977:124).

Unfortunately, little is known about Paleo-Indian subsistence strategies, settlement systems, or social organization. Generally, archaeologists agree that the Paleo-Indian groups were at a band level of society (see Service 1966), were nomadic, and were both hunters and foragers. While population density, based on the isolated finds, is thought to have been low, Walthall suggests that toward the end of the period, "there was an increase in population density and in territoriality and that a number of new resource areas were beginning to be exploited" (Walthall 1980:30).

The Archaic period, which dates from 8000 to 2000 B.C., does not form a sharp break with the Paleo-Indian period, but is a slow transition characterized by a modern climate and an increase in the diversity of material culture. Associated with this is a reliance on a broad spectrum of small mammals, although the white tailed deer was likely the most commonly exploited mammal. The chronology established by Coe (1964) for the North Carolina Piedmont may be applied with little modification to the South Carolina coastal plain and piedmont. Archaic period assemblages, exemplified by corner-notched and broad-stem projectile points, are fairly common, perhaps

because the swamps and drainages offered especially attractive ecotones.

In the Coastal Plain of the South Carolina there is an increase in the quantity of Early Archaic remains, probably associated with an increase in population and associated increase in the intensity of occupation. While Hardaway and Dalton points are typically found as isolated specimens along riverine environments, remains from the following Palmer phase are not only more common, but are also found in both riverine and interriversine settings. Kirks are likewise common in the coastal plain (Goodyear et al. 1979).

The two primary Middle Archaic phases found in the coastal plain are the Morrow Mountain and Guilford (the Stanly and Halifax complexes identified by Coe are rarely encountered). Our best information on the Middle Woodland comes from sites investigated west of the Appalachian Mountains, such as the work in the Little Tennessee River Valley. The work at Middle Archaic river valley sites, with their evidence of a diverse floral and faunal subsistence base, seems to stand in stark contrast to Caldwell's Middle Archaic "Old Quartz Industry" of Georgia and South Carolina, where axes, choppers, and ground and polished stone tools are very rare.

The Late Archaic is characterized by the appearance of large, square stemmed Savannah River projectile points (Coe 1964). These people continued the intensive exploitation of the uplands much like earlier Archaic groups. The bulk of our data for this period, however, comes from work in the Uwharrie region of North Carolina.

The Woodland period begins by definition with the introduction of fired clay pottery about 2000 B.C. along the South Carolina coast (the introduction of pottery, and hence the beginning of the Woodland period, occurs much later in the Piedmont of South Carolina). It should be noted that many researchers call the period from about 2500 to 1000 B.C. the Late Archaic because of a perceived continuation of the Archaic lifestyle in spite of the manufacture of pottery. Regardless of terminology, the period from 2500 to

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			Regional Phases				
Dates	Period	Sub-Period	NORTH COASTAL		SOUTH COASTAL	CENTRAL PIEDMONT	
1715	HIST.	EARLY	Tide Water Carolina Algonkians	Inner Coastal Plain Meherrin Tuscarora	Waccamaw ?	Caraway	
1650		LATE	Colington	Cashie	Oak Island	Don River	Pee Dee
800	WOODLAND					Uwharrie	
A.D. B.C. 300		MIDDLE	Mount Pleasant		Cape Fear Hanover	Yadkin	
		EARLY	Deep Creek		New River	Badin	
1000							
2000	ARCHAIC	LATE			Thorn's Creek Stallings		
3000					Savannah River Halifax		
		MIDDLE			Gulford Morrow Mountain Stanly		
5000							
8000	PALEO INDIAN	EARLY			Kirk  Palmer		
10,000					- Hardaway -		
12,000					Hardaway - Dalton  Clovis		

Figure 6. Cultural periods along the coast of South Carolina.

1000 B.C. is well documented on the South Carolina coast and is characterized by Stallings (fiber-tempered) pottery (see Figure 6 for a synopsis of Woodland phases and pottery designations). The subsistence economy during this early period was based primarily on deer hunting and fishing, with supplemental inclusions of small mammals, birds, reptiles, and shellfish.

Like the Stallings settlement pattern, Thom's Creek sites are found in a variety of environmental zones and take on several forms. Thom's Creek sites are found throughout the South Carolina Coastal Zone, Coastal Plain, and up to the Fall Line. The sites are found into the North Carolina Coastal Plain, but do not appear to extend southward into Georgia.

In the Coastal Plain drainage of the Savannah River there is a change of settlement, and probably subsistence, away from the riverine focus found in the Stallings Phase (Hanson 1982:13; Stoltman 1974:235-236). Thom's Creek sites are more commonly found in the upland areas and lack evidence of intensive shellfish collection. In the Coastal Zone large, irregular shell middens, small, sparse shell middens; and large "shell rings" are found in the Thom's Creek settlement system.

The Deptford phase, which dates from 1100 B.C. to A.D. 600, is best characterized by fine to coarse sandy paste pottery with a check stamped surface treatment. The Deptford settlement pattern involves both coastal and inland sites.

Inland, sites such as 38AK228-W, 38LX5, 38RD60, and 38BM40 indicate the presence of an extensive Deptford occupation on the Fall Line and the Coastal Plain, although sandy, acidic soils preclude statements on the subsistence base (Anderson 1979; Ryan 1972; Trinkley 1980b). These interior or upland Deptford sites, however, are strongly associated with the swamp terrace edge, and this environment is productive not only in nut masts, but also in large mammals such as deer. Perhaps the best data concerning Deptford "base camps" comes from the Lewis-West site (38AK228-W), where evidence of abundant food remains, storage pit features, elaborate material culture, mortuary behavior, and craft specialization has been reported (Sassaman et al. 1990:96-98).

Throughout much of the Coastal Zone and Coastal Plain north of Charleston, a somewhat different cultural manifestation is observed, related to the "Northern Tradition" (e.g., Caldwell 1958). This recently identified assemblage has been termed Deep Creek and was first identified from northern North Carolina sites (Phelps 1983). The Deep Creek assemblage is characterized by pottery with medium to coarse sand inclusions and surface treatments of cord marking, fabric impressing, simple stamping, and net impressing. Much of this material has been previously designated as the Middle Woodland "Cape Fear" pottery originally typed by South (1976). The Deep Creek wares date from about 1000 B.C. to A.D. 1 in North Carolina, but may date later in South Carolina. The Deep Creek settlement and subsistence systems are poorly known, but appear to be very similar to those identified with the Deptford phase.

The Deep Creek assemblage strongly resembles Deptford both typologically and temporally. It appears this northern tradition of cord and fabric impressions was introduced and gradually accepted by indigenous South Carolina populations. During this time some groups continued making only the older carved paddle-stamped pottery, while others mixed the two styles, and still others (and later all) made exclusively cord and fabric stamped wares.

The Middle Woodland in South Carolina is characterized by a pattern of settlement mobility and short-term occupation. On the southern coast it is associated with the Wilmington phase, while on the northern coast it is recognized by the presence of Hanover, McClellanville or Santee, and Mount Pleasant assemblages. The best data concerning Middle Woodland Coastal Zone assemblages comes from Phelps' (1983:32-33) work in North Carolina. Associated items include a small variety of the Roanoke Large Triangular points (Coe 1964:110-111), sandstone abraders, shell pendants, polished stone gorgets, celts, and woven marsh mats. Significantly, both primary inhumations and cremations are found.

On the Coastal Plain of South Carolina, researchers are finding evidence of a Middle Woodland Yadkin assemblage, best known from Coe's work at the Doerschuk site in North Carolina (Coe 1964:25-26).



Yadkin pottery is characterized by a crushed quartz temper and cord marked, fabric impressed, and linear check stamped surface treatments. The Yadkin ceramics are associated with medium-sized triangular points, although Oliver (1981) suggests that a continuation of the Piedmont Stemmed Tradition to at least A.D. 300 coexisted with this Triangular Tradition. The Yadkin series in South Carolina was first observed by Ward (1978, 1983) from the White's Creek drainage in Marlboro County, South Carolina. Since then, a large Yadkin village has been identified by DePratter at the Dunlap site (38DA66) in Darlington County, South Carolina (Chester DePratter, personal communication 1985) and Blanton et al. (1986) have excavated a small Yadkin site (38SU83) in Sumter County, South Carolina. Research at 38FL249 on the Roche Carolina tract in northern Florence County revealed an assemblage including Badin, Yadkin, and Wilmington wares (Trinkley et al. 1993:85-102). Anderson et al. (1982:299-302) offer additional typological assessments of the Yadkin wares in South Carolina.

Over the years the suggestion that Cape Fear might be replaced by such types as Deep Creek and Mount Pleasant has raised considerable controversy. Taylor, for example, rejects the use of the North Carolina types in favor of those developed by Anderson et al. (1982) from their work at Mattassee Lake in Berkeley County (Taylor 1984:80). Cable (1991) is even less generous in his denouncement of ceramic constructs developed nearly a decade ago, also favoring adoption of the Mattassee Lake typology and chronology. This construct, recognizing five phases (Deptford I - III, McClellanville, and Santee I), uses a type variety system.

Regardless of terminology, these Middle Woodland Coastal Plain and Coastal Zone phases continue the Early Woodland Deptford pattern of mobility. While sites are found all along the coast and inland to the Fall Line, shell midden sites evidence sparse shell and artifacts. Gone are the abundant shell tools, worked bone items, and clay balls. Recent investigations at Coastal Zone sites such as 38BU747 and 38BU1214, however, have provided some evidence of worked bone and shell items at Deptford phase middens (see Trinkley 1990).

In many respects the South Carolina Late Woodland may be characterized as a continuation of previous Middle Woodland cultural assemblages. While outside the Carolinas there were major cultural changes, such as the continued development and elaboration of agriculture, the Carolina groups settled into a lifeway not appreciably different from that observed for the previous 500 to 700 years (cf. Sassaman et al. 1990:14-15). This situation would remain unchanged until the development of the South Appalachian Mississippian complex (see Ferguson 1971).

The South Appalachian Mississippian Period (ca. A.D. 1100 to 1640) is the most elaborate level of culture attained by the native inhabitants and is followed by cultural disintegration brought about largely by European disease. The period is characterized by complicated stamped pottery, complex social organization, agriculture, and the construction of temple mounds and ceremonial centers. The earliest phases include the Savannah and Pee Dee (A.D. 1200 to 1550).

### Historic Overview

The English established the first permanent settlement in what is today South Carolina in 1670 on the west bank of the Ashley River. Like other European powers, the English were lured to "new World" for reasons other than the acquisitions of land and promotion of agriculture. The Lords Proprietors, who owned the colony until 1719-1720, intended to discover a staple crop whose marketing would provide great wealth through the mercantile system.

By 1680 the settlers of Albermarle Point had moved their village across the bay to the tip of the peninsula formed by the Ashley and Cooper rivers — the area of modern-day Charleston.

The early settlers of the Carolina colony came from other mainland colonies, England, and the European continent. But the future of Carolina was largely directed by the large number of colonists from the English West Indies. This Caribbean connection has been discussed by Waterhouse (1975), who argues that the Caribbean immigrants were largely from old families of economic and political prominence which

formed the Barbados elite. Waterhouse observes that while elsewhere in the American colonies the early settled families were displaced from their established positions of power and economic superiority by newcomers, this did not occur in South Carolina. In Carolina:

a relatively large proportion of those who, in the middle of the eighteenth century, were among the wealthier inhabitants, were descended from those families who had arrived in the colony during the first twenty years of its settlement (Waterhouse 1975:280).

This immigration turned out to be a significant factor in the stability and longevity of South Carolina's colonial elite. It also firmly established the foundations of slavery and cash crop plantations.

In 1682 the first three Carolina counties — Berkeley, Colleton, and Craven — were created. This original Colleton County was far larger than the area known as Colleton today and included roughly the area between the Stone and Combahee rivers. This incorporated modern-day Dorchester County, as well as Edisto and Johns islands.

There seems to be little reliable information concerning the early settlement of Colleton, although there is general agreement that one settlement grew up around Jacksonboro on the Edisto River (known at the time as Pon Pon River). Another significant settlement was Willtown, situated about 8 miles south of Jacksonboro (and today outside of Colleton County). The Round O was an area initially used for cattle raising, although by 1700 it seems that rice was being planted (The Jaeger Company 1995:10).

Cattle raising was an easy way to exploit the region's land and resources, offering a relatively secure return for very little capital investment. Few slaves were necessary to manage the herd. The mild climate of the low country made winter forage more abundant and winter shelters unnecessary. The salt marshes on the coast, useless for other purposes, provided excellent grazing and eliminated the need to provide salt licks.

More interior swamps found similar vegetation and provided a constant water supply (Coon 1972; Dunbar 1961). Production of cattle, hogs, and sheep quickly outstripped local consumption and by the early eighteenth century beef and pork were principal exports of the Colony to the West Indies (Ver Steeg 1975:114-116). This allowed the ties between Carolina and the Caribbean to remain strong, and provided essential provisions to the large scale, single crop plantations.

Rice and indigo both competed for the attention of Carolina planters. Although introduced at least by the 1690s, rice did not become a significant staple crop until the early eighteenth century. At that time it not only provided the Proprietors with the economic base the mercantile system required, but it was also to form the basis of South Carolina's plantation system — slavery.

The Church Act of 1706 established two Anglican parishes in Colleton County — St. Bartholomew's and St. Paul's, with the former roughly encompassing what is today Colleton County.

Regardless of the progress of early settlement, by 1715 the Yemassee Indian initiated what was to develop into a major war that would leave the region largely uninhabited. Wallace, for example, suggests that the very low level of slave ownership in the area during the first quarter of the eighteenth century was the result of this war (Wallace 1934:I:309-310).

As rice became a more important commodity, however, the complexion of Colleton County gradually changed. South Carolina's economic development during the pre-Revolutionary War period involved a complex web of interactions between slaves, planters, and merchants. By the close of the eighteenth century some South Carolina plantations had a ratio of slaves to whites that was 27:1 (Morgan 1977). And by the end of the century over half of eastern South Carolina's white population held slaves. With slavery came, to many, unbelievable wealth. Coclanis notes that:

on the eve of the American Revolution, the white population of the low country was by far the richest single group in British North

America. With the area's wealth based largely on the expropriation by whites of the golden rice and blue dye produced by black slaves, the Carolina low country had by 1774 reached a level of aggregate wealth greater than that in many parts of the world even today. The evolution of Charleston, the center of the low-country civilization, reflected not only the growing wealth of the area but also its spirit and soul (Coclanis 1989:7).

Only certain areas of the low country, however, were suitable for rice production. During the early years rice was grown as an upland crop, in small fields adjacent to freshwater streams where water could be easily impounded and applied to the crop. By the early 1700s planters found that upland swamps, such as those in the Round O area, were even better suited for rice, although the soils were quickly exhausted (Meriwether 1940; Sellers 1934). These upland swamps, distinct from well-drained uplands, remained the focus of Carolina rice agriculture during the entire Colonial period.

Hewatt, writing in 1779, describes the process of upland swamp rice cultivation:

after the planter has obtained his tract of land, and built a house upon it, he then begins to clear his field of that load of wood with which the land is covered. Having cleared his field, he next surrounds it with a wooded fence, to exclude all hogs, sheep, and cattle from it. This field he plants with rice . . . year after year, until the lands are exhausted, or yield not a crop sufficient to answer his expectations. Then it is forsaken, and a fresh spot of land is cleared and planted, with is also treated in like manner, and in succession forsaken and neglected (Hewatt 1836:514).

This rather simplistic commentary failed to observe the

engineering feat that upland swamp rice cultivation really was. Clearing, which alone was a monumental undertaking, was followed by the construction of dams, dikes, and trenches. By one estimate, a 500 acre rice field required 60 miles of dikes and ditches (Gunn 1976:1-16). Fields were carefully leveled to ensure that they could be completely covered by water. Rice was planted during two periods — March 10 to April 10 and June 1 to June 10 — avoiding May since vast migrations of "rice birds" passed through the state during that period and could destroy a crop. Rice was harvested in late August.

During the eighteenth century the profits to be gained from rice were extraordinary, ranging from a 12% to nearly 28% net return on the investment, well exceeding other cash crops, such as tobacco or indigo (see Coclanis 1989:141). Charleston was the mecca around which the economic, political, and social world of Carolina revolved. Charleston provided the essential opportunity for conspicuous consumption, a mechanism which allowed the display of wealth accumulated from the plantation system.

By the end of the eighteenth century, beginning of the nineteenth century, the rate of return on rice had been reduced, at best, to about 2%, and many years the rate of return was a staggering -3% to -7%. In 1859, just before the Civil War, the return is reported to have been -28%. As Coclanis observes:

the economy of the South Carolina low country collapsed in the nineteenth century. Collapse did not come suddenly - many feel, for example, that the area's "golden age" lasted until about 1820 - but come it did nonetheless. By the late nineteenth century it was clear that the forces responsible for the area's earlier dynamism had been routed, the dark victory of economic stagnation virtually complete (Coclanis 1989:111).

Colleton County saw several military engagements during the American Revolution. Perhaps best known is the Battle of Parker's Ferry, where

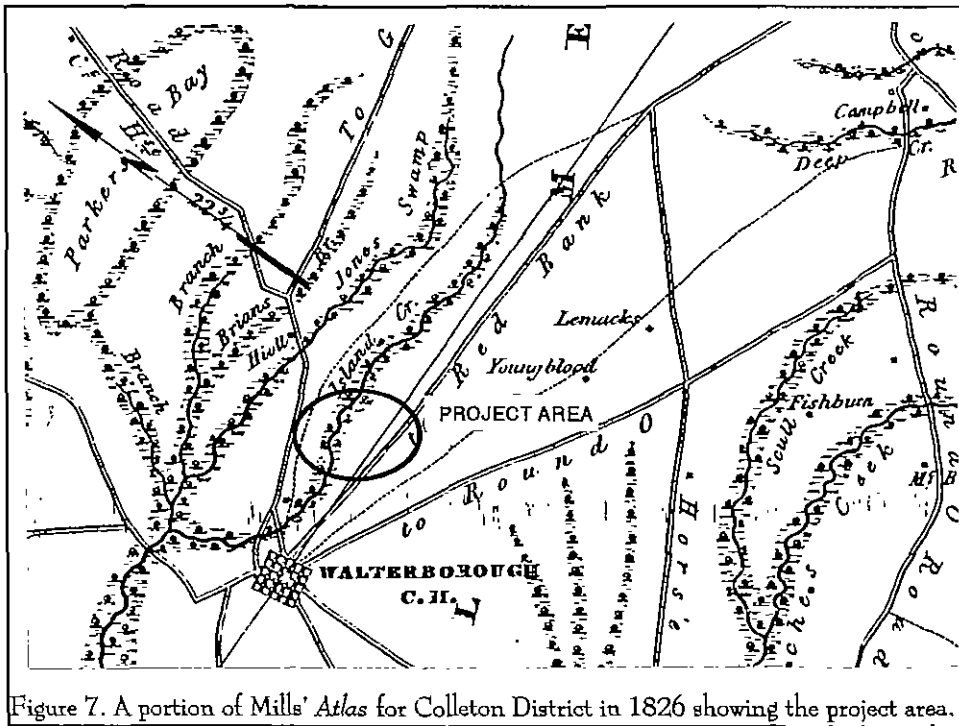


Figure 7. A portion of Mills' *Atlas* for Colleton District in 1826 showing the project area.

General Francis Marion and his force of about 400 men stopped the advance of superior British forces under the command of Lieutenant Colonel de Borock and forced his retreat back to Charleston (The Jaeger Company 1995:14). In early 1782 Jacksonboro served as the capital of South Carolina, hosting the General Assembly. It was during this term that South Carolina elected a new governor and approved the various Amercement and Confiscation Acts aimed against British loyalists.

After the American Revolution the economy of the Colleton area, like elsewhere in the state, was in ruins and there was a very slow recovery — largely focused once again on rice cultivation and particularly the spread of tidal cultivation. The first census of St. Bartholomew in 1790 revealed a population of 12,606, with more than 82% of those enumerated being African American slaves. Of the 538 heads of households in 1790, 311 or 58%, owned at least one slave.

The town of Walterboro was founded in 1783 by Paul and Jacob Walter and was chosen as a haven for those family members stricken with malaria. Soon, several coastal plantation owners joined them in calling

Walterboro, or what was then known as simply the Ireland Creek settlement, as their summer home. By 1800, Walterboro had turned into a significant "pine-barren" resort, called so because of its wooded location and the timber fabricated cabins. It was named as the county seat of Colleton County in 1817, officially adopting the name Walterboro at this time. Not more than a decade later, the town had grown to a summer population of 900, with over 450

full-time residents. The town grew slowly but steadily through the antebellum years, catering to the same plantation owners that founded the town in the summer months. Several businesses and industries developed to support the growing community and their tourist traffic including churches, restaurants, general stores, and government buildings.

The antebellum saw continued expansion of rice and continued accumulation of wealth by many planters. In fact, by 1860 Colleton District ranked second among South Carolina's 30 districts in rice production with 22.8 million pounds being produced (The Jaeger Company 1995:20). Mills commented that the district's rice lands were very productive, "yielding on an average two barrels, or 1400 pounds of rice to the acre" (Mills 1972 [1826]:505).

Mills' *Atlas* for Colleton (Figure 7) reveals the growth of Walterboro. The road "to Red Bank" closely follows the modern course of S-21, while the road "to Round O" is today US 17A. Between the two roads there was a path, no longer extant, on which several settlements were established. In the project area, adjacent to Ireland Creek (shown by Mills as "Island



most of the farms were situated on S-21. And even this late there were only two roads crossing the creek, both far to the north, at its headwaters.

### Previous Investigations

Colleton County has received relatively little archaeological attention. In fact, when Derting and his colleagues prepared the bibliography of archaeological literature in the early 1990s, there were only 24 listings for Colleton County (Derting et al. 1991:196-201). Of these 19, or nearly 80%, were associated with some sort of compliance study and 17 of the 19 were associated with highways construction activities. Wedged between far more prosperous counties to the northeast and southwest, Colleton had received relatively little investigation. That is still largely the case today.

The most recent large-scale investigation in Colleton is the 1995 architectural and historical survey of the county by The Jaeger Company (1995). This study, conducted over three years, identified 1288 sites for the county, although none are located in the immediate project area.

The only archaeological site within about a mile of the current project is 38CN94 (UTM E534050 N3655340). This site, measuring only about 50 feet in diameter, produced a small scatter of primarily Early Woodland pottery, including Stallings and Depford materials. Of greater interest to the current study is that the site is situated on a northwest facing side slope in a setting very similar to that found in the study corridor.



## METHODS AND RESULTS

### Field Methods

The initially proposed field techniques involved the placement of shovel tests at 100 foot intervals along the centerline of the corridor. One transect, running down this centerline, was proposed since the corridor is only 66 feet wide and the centerline was to be staked for our investigation. In areas of standing water, wetlands, or slopes over 10% no shovel tests would be excavated.

All soil would be screened through  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch mesh, with each test numbered sequentially. Each test would measure about 1 foot square and would normally be taken to a depth of at least 1.5 foot. All cultural remains would be collected, except for shell, mortar, and brick, which would be quantitatively noted in the field and discarded. Notes would be maintained for profiles at any sites encountered.

Should sites (defined by the presence of two or more artifacts from either surface survey or shovel tests within a 25 feet area) be identified by shovel testing, further tests would be used to obtain data on site boundaries, artifact quantity and diversity, site integrity, and temporal affiliation. These tests would be placed at 50 feet intervals in a simple cruciform pattern until two consecutive negative shovel tests were encountered. The information required for completion of South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology site forms would be collected and photographs would be taken, if warranted in the opinion of the field investigators.

This strategy was implemented with no significant changes. Shovel Tests 1 - 11 were placed on the corridor following the existing dirt road and power line easement, with the numbers running from the east to the west. Shovel Tests 12 - 29 were placed in the upland area from the dirt access road northward to the first wetland area. At that point the alignment was no longer cleared, but we did locate a cut line which ran

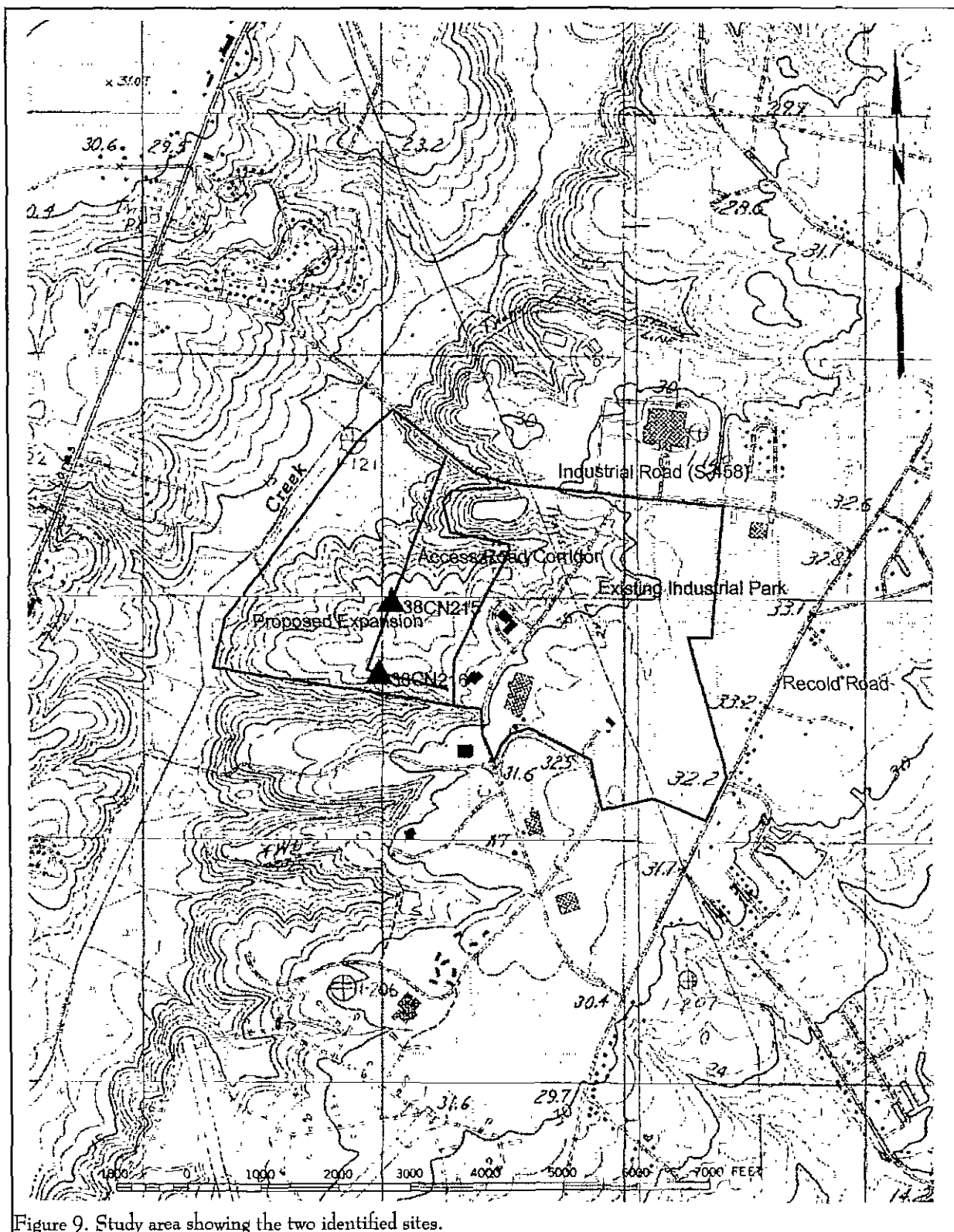
into the drainage. An additional three shovel tests (30 - 32) were excavated on the downhill slope before the ground became too steep and shovel testing was discontinued. As the cut line was walked the soils became wetter and was eventually lost.

At that point we moved to the north end of the route, where it intersects Industrial Road. The first 400 feet of the corridor in this area, while sloping only slightly to the southwest, were very low with much standing water. It appeared that an effort had been made to clear the corridor, but that excessive wetness had caused equipment problems and no further work was done. We also discovered that the area had been logged within the past 20 years. This may also have contributed to the very disturbed nature of the corridor.

At Shovel Test 37 the ground began to slope up, rising out the drainage and running along the edge of the ridge to the west. It was again difficult to consistently identify the corridor in this area, but we followed the ridge edge, excavating a series of six shovel tests (37 - 42) before the topography once again began to dip down into a drainage — at the opposite side of where testing was originally terminated with Shovel Test 32.

In sum, a series of 42 shovel test locations were identified along the alignment, 38 of which were actually excavated. We anticipate based on map comparisons that there are between 200 and 300 additional feet in lowland areas which were not investigated during this survey since we were not able to follow the survey cut line. These areas, however, would have been very low and wet and no shovel testing would have been conducted in the areas even if we had been able to identify the exact route. Consequently, we do not believe that the inability to gain access to these areas detracts from the thoroughness of the investigation.





In addition to the shovel testing, much of the corridor exhibited good surface visibility, ranging from 50 to 100% open. In these areas we also conducted a pedestrian survey. This was done by shovel testing along the corridor and then, during the walk back, examining the surface on both edges of the corridor.

This study also examined the roadsides of Industrial and Recold roads, which border the project area to the north and east, for any indication of structures at least 50 years old.

### Site Evaluation

Sites will be evaluated for further work based on the eligibility criteria for the National Register of Historic Places. Chicora Foundation only provides an opinion of National Register eligibility and the final determination is made by the State Historic Preservation Officer at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History in consultation with the lead federal agency (in this case the Charleston District Corps of Engineers).

The criteria for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places is described by 36CFR60.4, which states:

the quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and

a. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

b. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

c. that embody the distinctive

characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

d. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

*National Register Bulletin 36* (Townsend et al. 1993) provides an evaluative process that contains five steps for forming a clearly defined explicit rationale for either the site's eligibility or lack of eligibility. Briefly, these steps are:

- identification of the site's data sets or categories of archaeological information such as ceramics, lithics, subsistence remains, architectural remains, or sub-surface features;

- identification of the historic context applicable to the site, providing a framework for the evaluative process;

- identification of the important research questions the site might be able to address, given the data sets and the context;

- evaluation of the site's archaeological integrity to ensure that the data sets were sufficiently well preserved to address the research questions; and

- identification of important research questions among all of those which might be asked and answered at the site.

This approach, of course, has been developed for use documenting eligibility of sites being actually

nominated to the National Register of Historic Places where the evaluative process must stand alone, with relatively little reference to other documentation and where typically only one site is being considered.

### Laboratory Analysis

The cleaning and analysis of artifacts was conducted in Columbia at the Chicora Foundation laboratories. These materials have been catalogued and accessioned for curation at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, the closest regional repository. The site forms for the identified archaeological sites (discussed below) have been filed with the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. Field notes and photographic materials have been prepared for curation using archival standards and will be transferred to the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology as soon as the project is complete. Analysis of the collections followed professionally accepted standards with a level of intensity suitable to the quantity and quality of the remains.

### Results

Our survey for architectural sites found that Recold Road is dominated by very recently constructed buildings associated with the area vocational center, the county's vocational rehabilitation department, and an industrial plant. Industrial Road contains an additional sparse assortment of light industrial and commercial establishments. This driving survey found no structures which appear to meet the 50 year criteria.

As previously discussed, we found that about 700 feet of the corridor were low and poorly drained. An additional 400 feet were on side slopes. The remaining 3,300 feet were on more gentle slopes or ridge top areas. Both shovel testing and a visual inspection was made of the corridor.

None of the shovel tests yielded archaeological remains. In spite of this, two archaeological sites — one historic and one prehistoric — were identified during the subsequent pedestrian survey (Figure 9).

Site 38CN215 is situated in the upland area

of the corridor, on the south edge of the major drainage to Ireland Creek. The site's central UTM coordinates are E534060 N3645000 and the site is found at an elevation of about 73 feet AMSL. Vegetation has been altered by clearing and grubbing, but adjacent to the corridor a mixed pine and hardwood forest is present, with the hardwoods becoming more abundant as you move downslope into the adjacent drainage.

The soils are very loose and friable Alpin fine sands. Shovel tests revealed about 0.8 foot of grayish brown (10YR5/2) sandy Ap horizon soil overlying light yellowish brown (10YR6/4) sands. Shovel tests in this area were excavated to about 1.5 feet initially (well into the underlying lighter soil zone).

During the pedestrian survey two sherds were identified on the surface within about 20 feet of each other, at the approximate center of the corridor. The sherds include one Deptford Cord Marked sherd and one Deptford Plain sherd. Both have heavy grit inclusions, characteristic of Deptford wares in this part of the state.

A series of four additional shovel tests were excavated in the vicinity of these surface finds (ST 27 served as the northeastern shovel test of the cruciform pattern), but no additional materials were encountered. These shovel tests were excavated to depths of approximately 2 feet; soil profiles were identical to those initially encountered (Figure 10).

We have defined the site boundaries as being about 25 feet northeast-southwest by about 15 feet northwest-southeast. This roughly conforms to the distribution of the two recovered sherds.

While it is possible that these two sherds represent a site that is primarily situated off the alignment, the very open ground conditions seem more than adequate to encounter additional material, if it were present. This suggests that the site is very ephemeral and/or has suffered previous disturbance. Since none of the trees in this area are more than 50 years old, it seems likely that the area has been heavily cultivated and/or logged for a number of years. This may have had a significant effect on archaeological resources.

# METHODS AND RESULTS

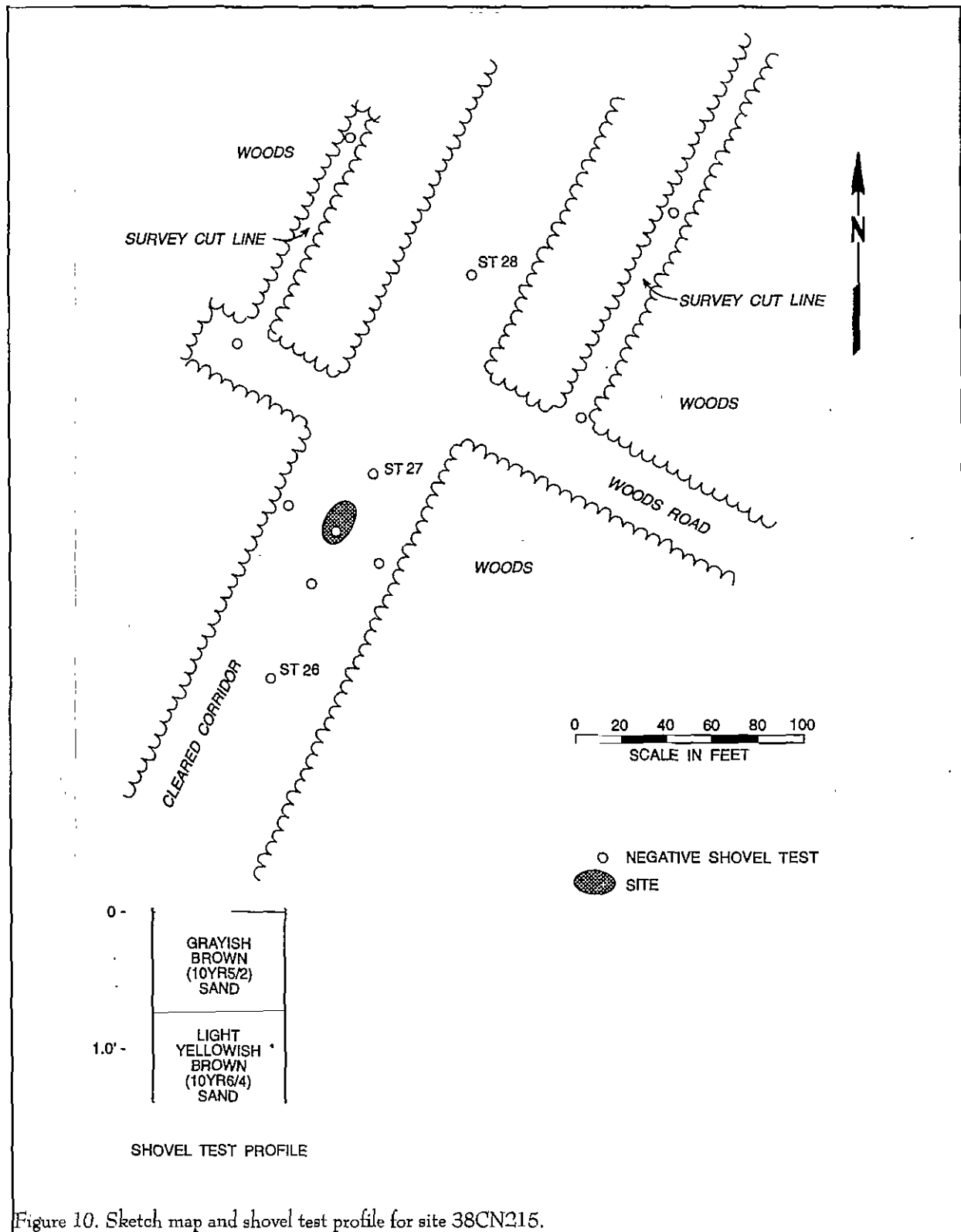


Figure 10. Sketch map and shovel test profile for site 38CN215.

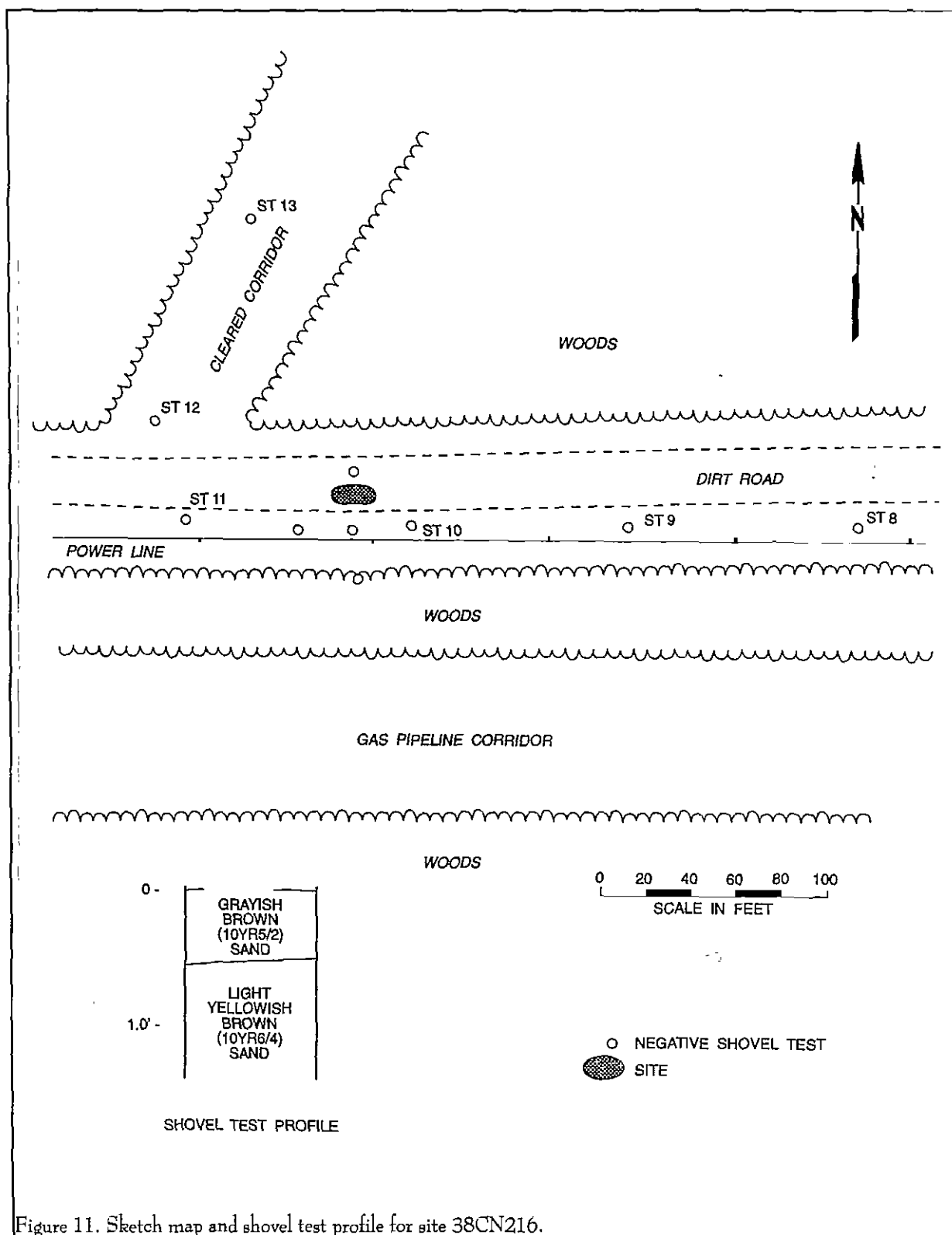


Figure 11. Sketch map and shovel test profile for site 38CN216.

## METHODS AND RESULTS

The sparse remains, the failure to encounter additional types of materials, such as lithics or evidence of features, and the probable land-use history of the site suggest that few data sets are present. This is regrettable since we have very little information on the prehistoric settlement of the Colleton County area; however, it seems unlikely that this site has either the data sets or exhibits the integrity to address substantive research issues for the Early to Middle Woodland. Consequently, we do not believe that the site is eligible for inclusion on the National Register.

Pending review by the Corps and State Historic Preservation Office, we do not recommend any additional management activities at this site.

Site 38CN216 is situated in the dirt road running parallel to the power line easement on the southern leg of the proposed access road. The central UTM coordinates are E533960 N3644660. The site elevation is 70 feet AMSL and the topography is generally level to the east and south, but slopes fairly steeply up to the north. To the south of the site is a gas pipeline corridor, with only about 40 feet of woods separating the two spaces. Vegetation is almost entirely planted pine, suggesting that the area has been either cultivated or extensively logged.

Like at 38CH215, the initial shovel testing failed to identify any archaeological materials in the site area, although several pieces of plastic and several very modern metal fragments were recovered in the screen, but discarded. However, the subsequent pedestrian survey down the road found five fragments of ceramics. All were very fragmented, likely from vehicular traffic. Four are undecorated whiteware and one is a blue transfer printed whiteware. None offer particularly secure dating, although it is likely that they date from the last third of the nineteenth century into the first half of the twentieth century.

With the identification of these materials an additional four shovel tests, laid out as a cruciform at intervals of 50 feet (ST 10 served as the eastern shovel test in the cruciform), were excavated at this site. These tests reveal a grayish brown (10YR5/2) sandy Ap horizon about 0.5 foot in depth, overlying a light yellowish brown (10YR6/4) sand. This profile is

characteristic of Alpin soils. Excavations were taken to a depth of about 1.3 to 1.5 feet. No additional materials were identified in any of the shovel tests.

In the woods to the south of the south, between the dirt access road and the gas pipe line, we did note several metal objects, apparently car parts which have been discarded in this area. A brief reconnaissance of the surrounding area failed to reveal any piles of brick, landscape features such as plants, or other remains that might suggest the location of a nearby domestic structure. It is possible, of course, that a structure is situated upslope, to the north, and was simply not identified during this survey.

The site boundaries for this scatter were established as about 25 feet east-west and 15 feet north-south, based on the distribution of materials (Figure 11).

Our failure to identify additional materials or to encounter any features that suggest an intact domestic site, suggest that the data sets at this site are limited to the recovered ceramics. Further compromising the site integrity is the likelihood of extensive previous ground disturbance and the possibly that the site represents a dump episode. We do not believe that the recovered remains are able to make any significant contribution to our understanding of late nineteenth or early twentieth century life in the study area. As a result, we recommend the site as not eligible for inclusion on the National Register.

Pending review by the Corps and State Historic Preservation Office, we do not recommend any additional management activities at this site.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED COLLETON COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD

## SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed Colleton County Industrial Park access road corridor is situated in the lower Coastal Plain in central Colleton County, just east of the City of Walterboro. The corridor runs from Industrial Road (S-458) southwesterly for about 3,300 feet before turning sharply to the east, paralleling an existing powerline easement and dirt road for the remaining 1,100 feet. Much of the corridor running off Industrial Road has already been cleared and grubbed, resulting in some disturbance to the topography and reduction in topsoil. In these areas ground surface visibility is excellent. Some difficulty was encountered identifying the corridor through the wetlands and along one of the side slopes, but these problems were relatively minor. The portion of the corridor paralleling the powerline easement and existing dirt access road has not been cleared, but there was still much open ground associated with the road and berms.

Throughout the project the road right-of-way has been established at 66 feet. As a result, the corridor was investigated using a single line of shovel tests placed at 100 foot intervals. The only areas not subjected to shovel testing were the wetlands and areas of steep slope. The former were low and exhibited standing water, while the latter are not thought conducive to either prehistoric or historic occupation. Evidence of previous logging, with associated ground disturbance, was found in both areas.

The corridor is situated in an area which has received relatively little archaeological investigation. There is only one previously identified site — a scatter of Early to Middle Woodland pottery — found within a mile of the project. This previously identified site is situated in an area of similar topography — on a ridge overlooking Ireland Creek and its lowlands. This reveals that the sandy ridges adjacent to the creek are likely to contain archaeological sites. Although a three-year survey of the county's architectural and historical sites

has been completed, none were identified in the project vicinity.

No archaeological sites were encountered during the shovel testing, although two were identified based on very small surface scatters. Site 38CH215 is a small prehistoric site in the upland area overlooking Ireland Creek, while 38CH216 is an equally small scatter of late nineteenth or early twentieth century materials on the eastward projection of the access road. Both were tested with additional shovel tests but no subsurface materials were encountered.

The limited data sets, coupled with the amount of ground disturbance (and associated questions concerning site integrity) have caused us to recommend both sites as not eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Examination of the nearby road sides also failed to identify any structures or sites which appeared to be 50 or more years old. The project area is largely characterized by commercial and light industrial buildings dating from the last quarter of the twentieth century. This confirms the findings of the county-wide survey.

Nor does it seem likely that the proposed access road will have any dramatic impact on the surrounding area, which is already subdivided for industrial development and used by such companies as Besteel and Dayco. Other large tracts are used by a local high school and vocational school or have been reclaimed from a closed county landfill.

We do note, however, that this survey incorporates only the proposed access road and has not included any of the undeveloped land about to be opened for development by this access road.



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED COLLETON COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK ACCESS ROAD

As a result, we recommend no additional cultural resource management activities on this corridor, pending review and concurrence by the State Historic Preservation Office and the Charleston District Corps of Engineers.

It is possible that archaeological remains may be encountered in the corridor during construction. Construction crews should be advised to report any discoveries of concentrations of artifacts (such as bottles, ceramics, or projectile points) or brick rubble to the project engineer, who should in turn report the material to the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office or to Chicora Foundation. No construction should take place in the vicinity of these late discoveries until they have been examined by an archaeologist.

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